

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 16, 2013

- I. The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Kris Hampton at 7:00 P.M. Town Clerk Kim Banigan recorded the minutes, and Attorney Connie Anderson provided legal counsel. A list of other attendees is available in the Town Clerk's Office. 21 people signed in for the meeting, of which 19 were Town residents. Hampton stated a reminder that only Town Residents may participate in any votes taken tonight.
- II. Flag Pledge.
- III. The minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting were available in printed form. There was no reading of the minutes at the meeting. **MOTION** by Mike DuPlayee/Mike Kindschi to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2012 Annual Town Meeting as printed. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE (19-0-0).**
- IV. Additions to agenda by Electors: None.
- V. Presentation of the 2012 Annual Town Financial Report: Jan Froelich of Johnson Block and Company made an overview presentation of the 2012 Financial Statements. She stated that Johnson Block and Company was able to give an unqualified opinion that the 2012 Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town. Highlights of her presentation included:
 - Fund balances reflect the equity of the Town. Unassigned Funds are valued at \$540,399, which equates to 24% of the annual Town budget and is well within the "healthy" range.
 - The Income Statement shows that Town officials did a good job of staying close to the 2012 budget, and also reflects the Town's very low debt load, which is at only 1% of the Town's borrowing capacity.
 - Expenses have not varied much over the past three year period. Public Works and Public Safety make up the majority of the expenses.
 - Revenues, including property taxes, over the past three years have been steady, with the exception with intergovernmental revenue, which has fallen. 65% of the Town's revenues come from property taxes.**MOTION** by Mike DuPlayee/Richard Wood to approve the 2012 Financial Statements.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE (19-0-0)
- VI. Update on Town/Village Merger Study: Hampton reported that while the Town and Village Boards have adopted a Memorandum of Understanding to split costs related to the Merger Study, the two boards have not been able to come to an agreement to adopt a resolution restarting the Merger Study. At the joint meeting of the two boards held on April 4, 2013, the boards each had their own version of a resolution, but they could not come to an agreement to adopt either one.

Hampton explained that after the results of the referenda on the November 2012 ballot advised the Town Board to continue to study a merger with the Village, the Town Board used their authority under Town Ordinances to recreate the Merger Study Committee, and gave it direction regarding 4-5 items to work on in 2013. No funding was allocated for 2013, with the thought that the committee could use 2013 to develop a plan without any outside help, and bring a 2014 budget request to the Town Board in the Fall. However, the Village Board is not willing to restart the discussion without a formal resolution from both boards.

MOTION by Roger Williams/Silvin Kurt to discontinue merger talks with the Village. Discussion included a comment from Dave Muehl that merger talks are like dating, with emotions that may or

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may not be productive, and he felt this motion was too restrictive. A vote on the motion was taken by asking those in favor and opposed to alternately stand. **MOTION CARRIED 10-6.**

MOTION by Richard Wood/Mike DuPlayee for the Town to make a good faith effort to get to the table with the Village if they are willing to address the Town's concerns before moving forward. The Clerk read the 2013 directives from the Town Board to the newly established Merger Study Committee:

- Details regarding the merging/consolidation of ordinances and zoning
- Details of a ward plan
- Definition, makeup, powers and responsibilities of a Rural Affairs Committee

Wood stated that he is not necessarily in favor of a merger, but feels it will eventually need to be addressed due to the shrinking tax base of the Town, and the Town may have more advantages in moving the process forward now than in the future.

A vote on the motion was taken by asking those in favor and opposed to alternately stand.

MOTION FAILED 6-11.

- VII. Update on Deer-Grove EMS: Deer-Grove EMS Lt. Jerry McMullen thanked the Town for its support, especially during the last year when negotiations for the new 10-year intermunicipal agreement got a little rocky. He invited residents to take a look at the new Lifeline ambulance and Ford Explorer first response vehicle, which were both parked outside the Town Hall. McMullen reported that volunteer staffing has been up during the past year, and a new full time paramedic position was recently filled. Under good weather conditions, the response time to anywhere in the Deer-Grove EMS District can be under 9 minutes. In response to a question from Kristi Williams about expectations of volunteers, McMullen said that volunteers are asked for 24 hours of service per month, in 6 hour shifts, and expected to attend monthly training sessions.
- VIII. Stormwater Management Education: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Activities: Nahn explained the purpose of his presentation is to meet the public education requirement of the Town's Phase II Stormwater permit, which allows the discharge of stormwater from the Town. Stormwater from the Town of Cottage Grove flows either to Lake Kegonsa via Door Creek, or Lake Koshkonong via the Koshkonong Creek. He explained that the grassed ditches in the Township serve the purpose of cleaning stormwater before it leaves the town, and it is important that we all do our part to keep them free of debris. Some of the things we can all do are:
- Get informed. The Town Office has a DVD available for residents and civic groups to borrow.
 - Keep your car free of oil leaks, and dispose of waste oil properly. You are allowed to put out up to 2 one-gallon jugs of oil, with lids, with your recycling.
 - Use a commercial car wash rather than washing your car in your driveway. They are designed to properly dispose of the waste water.
 - Properly dispose of pet waste.
 - Limit salt use on driveways. Use enough for safe footing but don't overdo it. He recommended 1 lb. of for every 100 – 200 sq. feet.
 - Use of rain barrels and rain gardens.
 - Dry cleanup of spills
 - Compost yard waste.
 - Limit use of fertilizers and pesticides.

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- If you see activities that could lead to stormwater contamination, talk to your neighbors and educate those around you.

Nahn said that the Town has been able to meet the current requirements to remove 40% of total suspended solids from stormwater using the grassed ditches, but upcoming Federal mandates of 60 – 70% removal will require more innovative approaches in the near future.

- IX. Set date for next year's Annual Town Meeting: **MOTION** by Mike Kindschi/Mike DuPlayee to hold next year's Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE (19-0-0)**
- X. Other Business: Hampton asked again if there was any other business; there was not.
- XI. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Mike DuPlayee/Mike Kindschi to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUSLY VOICE VOTE (19-0-0).** The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Kim Banigan
Clerk
Approved 4-15-2014